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Shotmeyer Bros. Petroleum Corp.

10 WAGARAW ROAD
HAWTHORNE, NEW JERSEY 07506
PHONES: (973) 427-1000 (973) 835-1000
FAX: (973) 427-6363

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99 MAY 17 AM 11:39

Dockets Unit
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room 40 1
400 Seventh Street
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RSPA - 99-5137-28

May 13, 1999

Dear Sir/Madam:

As the owner of Shotmeyer Bros. Petroleum Corp. located in Hawthorne NJ, I am opposed to the Research and Special Programs Administration's proposal to increase fees paid by small businesses that haul petroleum products.

The proposal would increase fees for small businesses that transport hazardous substances. Currently, the fee is \$300 a year. RSPA has proposed adding additional registrants to the system by removing a current exemption that many **small** businesses fall within. The current exemption that RSPA is proposing to remove is for any company that hauls hazardous materials in a tank truck whose capacity is 3,500 gallons or less. Many small businesses will go **from** paying the \$300 fee to paying \$2,000.

RSPA contends that the fee increase and expansion is needed to satisfy a growing number of grant requests – the fees generated are returned to states and localities in the form of Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants.

While most, if not all, of these grant requests are worthy, FMA does not believe that a government program funded through fees (i.e. taxes) should be allowed to grow simply because more people make requests. Furthermore, our members also pay for the training of the fire fighting and emergency response personnel through their local property taxes.

Finally, this proposal as currently drafted is skewed to favor large national chemical companies at the expense of small businesses like mine since they will pay, in some instances, the same fee as small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Shotmeyer

Mobil"